

Amendments To The Drawings:

The attached drawing sheets include changes to FIG. 6. These sheets contain corrections shown in red for the examiner's approval and are requested to replace the original sheets of FIG. 6.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet of FIG. 6

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes of FIG. 6

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are pending in the present application before this amendment. No claim has been amended in this paper, and no new matter has been added.

In the drawings, FIG. 6 has been amended to correct for the inadvertent error introduced in the originally filed drawings. No new matter has been added in drawings as the replacement FIG. 6 is supported by the disclosure.

In the office action, claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication Nos. 2002/0103929 (Molnar) in view of 2004/0203945 (Qu). The "et al." suffix is omitted in a reference name.

The presently claimed invention teaches, inter alia, a method of reducing the load of Short Message Service Center (SMSC). In doing this, for example, the presently claimed invention uses a mobile station ISDN (MSISDN) as a mobile switching center address stored in mobile station defined in 3GPP for routing and subscriber distribution of the short message service center in an UMTS network, instead of using a real mobile switching center address. The cited Molnar and Qu references are not about reducing the load of SMSC as their teachings and purposes are quite different from that of the presently claimed invention for reducing load of Short Message Service Center (SMSC).

The cited Molnar and Qu references do not teach or suggest, inter alia, the important claimed steps for achieving said purpose of the presently claimed invention:

--a load centralization confirmation step where the operation control unit receives short message processing states for each short message service center, confirms load centralization states of each short message service center, and generates an operation message--, and

a step for setting up --a transmission path of the short message according to the operation message--.

Then, the mobile switching center sets up the short message service center corresponding to address information included in the operation message from the operation control unit as a minimum load centralization short message service center to set up the transmission path of the short message. In particular, as described in the specification page 6, lines 3-8 and 17-22, the presently claimed invention teaches --confirming load centralization state of each short message service center-- by, for example, having the SC address to be the MSISDN such that when SMSC call attempts are not balanced due to call habits of the subscribers, load can be reduced by changing the routing information of some subscribers of the SMSC (see the specification page 6, lines 17-22 and FIG. 6).

The examiner cites Molnar, ¶ 0057, which appears to be related to improving routing of messages; however, the teachings in Molnar ¶ 0057 are quite different from claim 1, which teaches, inter alia, steps for load centralization confirmation and optimal transmission which are based on the claimed feature of confirming the load centralization states of each SMSC. This is taught nowhere in Molnar ¶ 0057 or any other passages.

For the reasons set forth above, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4 pending in this application are in condition for allowance over the cited references. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and earnestly solicit an indication of allowable subject matter. This amendment is considered to be responsive to all points raised in the office action.

Should the examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. William Park', written over a horizontal line.

Dated: February 2, 2006

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FIG. 6

